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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-second session
10 June-5 July 2002
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-second session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Alejandro **Torres Lépori** (Argentina)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Item 4 (b)

Programme 19
Human rights

1. At its 16th meeting, on 21 June 2002, the Committee considered the proposed revisions to programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/57/6 (Prog. 19)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the proposed revisions and responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of those revisions.

Discussion

3. Support for the programme and for the proposed revisions was expressed. The Secretariat was complimented for remaining within the confines of the approved medium-term plan.

4. A view was expressed that the right to development and research and analysis should have been proposed as two separate subprogrammes. It was also stated that it might be difficult to separate the right to development from the concept of human rights as a whole.

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5. Concern was expressed that the expected accomplishments and measurements of achievement of Part A, Right to development, and Part B, Research and analysis, could not precisely reflect the objectives and strategies described under those parts.

6. Concern was also expressed regarding the reference, as a legislative mandate, to General Assembly resolution 56/266 of 27 March 2002 on the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. General support was expressed for the reference to resolution 56/266 as an important contribution of the United Nations to the promotion of the eradication of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. In that regard, delegations also pointed to the need to include a particular reference to subprogramme 2, in particular after the adoption of the Durban Programme of Action and resolution 56/266.

7. Concern was furthermore expressed about an eventual allocation of resources to promote the right to development. The need was also expressed to provide all the necessary capacity and provisions in order to integrate the right to development in all programmes of the Organization.

8. The approach based on the indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights referred to in paragraph 19.8 was commended.

9. One delegation expressed its concern and objection to the Declaration and resolutions on the right to development.

10. Views were expressed in favour of the inclusion of General Assembly resolution 56/146 on Equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies as a legislative mandate of subprogramme 1, while views were also expressed against such an inclusion. The Committee was therefore unable to reach a consensus on the matter.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the revisions proposed by the Secretary-General to programme 19, Human rights, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, with the following modifications:**

Paragraph 19.5 (a)

After the words "the right to development", add the words "aimed at the full realization of the right to development".

Paragraph 19.5 (b)

Delete the subparagraph.

Paragraph 19.5 (c)

Delete the words "all human rights, including".

Paragraph 19.7 (b)

(i) After the word "mandates", insert the words "relevant to the right to development";

(ii) Delete the words "most recently";

(iii) After the words "given to the Secretariat", insert the words "including the holding of seminars and workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights".

Paragraph 19.7 (c)

Delete the subparagraph.

Subprogramme 3

New paragraph 19.16 (d)

Under expected accomplishments: "Provision of the appropriate assistance to the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa to ensure its efficiency and smooth functioning".

New paragraph 19.18 (d)

Under measurements of achievement: "Appropriate assistance provided to the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and its impact on the effective functioning of the Centre".

Legislative mandates

Programme 19
Human rights

General Assembly resolutions

S-27/2 A world fit for children

Commission on Human Rights resolutions

2002/38 Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Subprogramme 1
Right to development, research and analysis

General Assembly resolutions

55/100 Respect for the right to universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification

55/192 Culture and development

Subprogramme 3
Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities

General Assembly resolutions

56/230 Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

56/253 Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

12. The Committee noted the proposal to include under subprogramme 1 a reference to General Assembly resolution 56/146 on Equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies and recommended that the General Assembly further consider and take appropriate action on the matter at its fifty-seventh session.